

# ANNOUNCING OPENING and Special Selling event in FINE FURS Friday, Dec. 11th

We beg to announce that on Friday, December 11th. Mr. C. C. Ashbaugh, of the Newton Amnis Co., Detroit, Mich., will again be with us with a fine collection of Furs and Fur Coats. You are cordially invited to attend this opening and inspect the many beautiful models that will be on display at special prices. Every Fur sold is guaranteed as represented or money refunded. Remember the date, Friday, Dec. 11th.

No. 1124

If your savings bank corresponds with the above number, bring your bank in for identification and receive FREE ONE SILVER DOLLAR. Watch this space for next number which will appear tomorrow.

## Fletcher's

The Store That Pays No Rent

**Montpelier Lumber Co.**  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
Everything with which to Build a Home.  
Flooring, Ceiling, Siding, Shingles, Lath, Doors, Windows, etc. Good materials at right prices.  
Prompt Shipments.  
We Manufacture Everything in Mill Work.  
CLARKSBURG, W. VA.  
Bell Phone 793. Home Phone 431

**All Trimmed  
HATS  
Half Price**  
We are showing all the new shapes and colorings in hats at price that cannot be equalled elsewhere.  
**M. E. Black-Krohme**  
"THE MILLINER"  
Gore Block Pike Street  
Room 12, Second Floor

**THREE MORE WEEKS  
UNTIL XMAS.**  
Do not put off ordering that new suit or overcoat until too late.  
We make your suit in six days. All work done in our own shops.  
Clarksburg's Best Tailors

**The Yonke - Coffman  
Tailoring Co.**  
Clarksburg's Best Tailors.  
130 FOURTH ST.

**CHICHESTER'S PILLS**  
THE DIAMOND BRAND.  
Largest and most famous of all pills.  
Pills in fact and gold medals.  
Bottle, sealed with Blue Ribbon.  
Take no other. Buy of your Druggist, or get full particulars from  
DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, 200 N. 3rd St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE

READ TELEGRAM CLASSIFIED ADS.

## THE HASKIN LETTER LAND TITLES. IX. The Kentucky Contest

By Frederick J. Haskin.

Romance, adventure and an indomitable determination to achieve independent control of the domain they had wrested from nature and from the hostile savages marked the early history of the state of Kentucky.

The contest for independence was not aimed at political self-government, since this was secured at an early date, but toward freeing the lands of the state from the trammels of absentee ownership under grants made by the parent state of Virginia.

The first settlements were made in Kentucky when it was separated from the Old Dominion of Virginia by a vast expanse of primeval forest. The first settlers were prevented from taking the water route to their new homes by the fact that the Ohio river was commanded by hostile tribes of Indians and with tremendous toll they struck out on an overland route which has since become famous under the name of the "Wilderness Trail."

At the close of the Revolution, the settlements in Kentucky were beyond practical government by the state of Virginia and were ceded to the United States with the proviso that they should be erected into one of the states of the Union. There were vast existing interests and claims of citizens of Virginia in lands in Kentucky and these could only be protected by the establishment of a state government under the terms of the federal constitution. By these terms, questions of rights between the citizens of two states, would be adjudicated by the supreme court of the United States and the decrees enforced by the federal power and citizens of Virginia depended upon this protection based on the enforcement of a compact made between Kentucky and Virginia that the status of land titles under former Virginia laws should not be disturbed.

The history of land titles in Kentucky may be taken as typical of the contests which arose in several new states between actual settlers of remote lands and the owners of paper titles. In the early days those who were unable or unwilling to purchase land within easy reach of the older settlements pushed on to conquer a new country for themselves.

This was especially true of Kentucky, whose settlers, careless of the Indian titles, established themselves by force of arms, and having secured peace by conquest, set themselves to accumulate the comforts of life by arduous labor. When they had created a value for the lands on which they were settled, it seemed hard to them that they should be dispossessed at the instance of a man of whom they had never heard, who had waited at ease in a civilized community until it was worth while to assert the paper title which he, to assert the paper title which had, in fact, been theirs.

The land warrants issued by the state of Virginia, like all the early land warrants were the subject of speculation. Large grants of land were made on the ground of military services and warrants representing these grants were sold for small sums. The expense of surveys and improvements in order to perfect the warrants into patents was, in many cases, beyond the means of the individuals to whom the warrants were issued and a proprietary class had been developed by the accumulation into a few hands of large amounts of these unperfected titles. Legislation had been effected which was intended to prevent hardships to individuals through forfeiture or lapses of warrants which represented valid consideration and this legislation worked to the advantage of large holders in enabling them to carry warrants in large amounts and to perfect the titles only as the lands became sufficiently valuable to warrant the expense.

Shortly after the admission of Kentucky to the Union, the evils of this condition to the actual settlers became oppressive. The actual settlers depended on the absence of appearance of surveys of occupation to guide them in selection of lands which were appropriated. They found justification in this course by the Virginia law which made the survey on the ground the binding evidence of appropriation and which provided for means by which the boundaries of appropriated property should become notorious. It also provided means for preemption of land by actual improvement and prescribed a course by which settlers could perfect title through a county official in their vicinity.

But there were at least six different methods by which title to unappropriated lands could be acquired and it was possible to secure an incipient title in Virginia which would conflict with the title inaugurated in the remote country in which the land lay. If either or both claimants took advantage of the delays allowed by remedial statutes before taking further steps to a patent, the conflict would be likely to remain unknown until a considerable amount of improvement had been made on the land.

This source of trouble, however, was less mischievous than that

which arose from the nature of the surveys made. In a country which was largely unbroken wilderness and with constant danger from hostile Indians, the surveys proceeded upon broad lines and resulted in indefinite descriptions and insufficient and often transitory monuments. To a great extent the actual settlers depended upon their improvements as notice of their occupation and in their preemption notices, the description of a given number of acres "including my cabin" was all that was thought necessary to delineate the land which they intended to acquire. In fact, this description was so usual that it became necessary for the courts of the state to construe it, and it was held that the lines of such a holding should be established by taking the location of the cabin for the center point of a square and running out diagonal lines to a sufficient distance to include the amount of land claimed within the four sides.

When, following the Revolutionary war, the great western growth of the United States became assured, and lands even beyond Kentucky began to assume a real value, the Kentucky settlers were almost overwhelmed by the flood of litigation which poured in upon them from claimants out of possession. They had recourse to a principle established in Virginia as far back as 1661 and pushed its application to the uttermost limit in an effort to save the fruits of their labor from going into the hands of others.

The colony of Virginia had been confronted at an early date with the same difficulties and insufficiencies of the system of surveying in vogue, difficulties and insufficiencies which could be avoided only by a comprehensive governmental survey such as was afterwards established by the United States, and it was provided by the early laws of Virginia that where there had been occupation of another's lands by honest mistake, the matter might be arranged by payments, on the one hand, for improvements made, or, on the other, for the original value of the land.

The legislature of Kentucky adopted and expanded this principle in two enactments, the second more drastic than the first, which provided that the holder of a paper title proceeding against the actual occupant and improver of the land should first be required to give three months' notice of the claim before taking any action; should be required to pay for all work that had been done on the land, and that if the value of the latter amounted to three-fourths of the total value of the land, then the claimant must transfer his own title to the occupant of the land and accept in full satisfaction an amount equivalent to the original value of the land as unimproved.

The serious and general hardships that were threatened the settlers of Kentucky by the adverse claims made by non-residents is indicated by the nature of these laws. While sympathy is naturally commanded by those who had by their personal toil, especially under conditions of danger and hardship, created the improvements on the land, it is probable that the attempt of the Kentucky legislature to save these improvements amounted to confiscation of the rights of citizens of Virginia. The necessities of the Kentuckians made the proposed program a popular one in that state and the eloquence of Henry Clay was enlisted to defend the proposition before the supreme court of the United States. That tribunal, however, held the acts of the Kentucky legislature to be unconstitutional as violating the compact which had been made between Virginia and Kentucky that rights under Virginia grants which were in existence at the time of the separation of the territory of the two states should not be impaired.

Tomorrow: Land Titles. X.—Texas and California.

The Grand View farm, near Oconomowoc, Wis., has a haystack containing 260 loads of hay, or 175 tons. The stack is 34x36x115 feet.

**EVERY HAT IN THE  
SHOP REDUCED  
NOTHING RESERVED**

All the new color combinations, King George Blue American Beauty, Scarlet and Green.

IT WILL PAY YOU TO  
VISIT US

**Finnell & Mulheran**

THE QUALITY SHOP  
Opposite Postoffice.

## X-MAS GIFTS

We can show you a beautiful line of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Traveling Cases, Manicure Cases in ivory, pearl, gold and silver, in beautiful, soft leather cases. All colors.  
Ladies' Hand Bags, all new novelty designs, dainty beautiful colors.  
Perfumes and Toilet Waters. All the delicate odors. Hobart Ideal, Azura, Mary Garden, Latreffe, Perfume Atomizers put up in Christmas packages.  
No better present than a 5 pound box **HYLERS' CANDY.**

**Sturm & Wilson**  
DRUGGISTS

**Inside Property,  
Fine Location,  
Good Prices,  
Best Neighborhood**

**TERRA COTTA ST.**

Directly back of the residence of Howard Cunningham, two story, slate roof house, six rooms, front and back porches, oak finish, cabinet mantels, shade trees in front and in rear, lot 25x93 feet. There is a vacant lot next to this property with no buildings on it that gives plenty of light in this home.

**PRICE \$3,200**

See us for terms.

**MULBERRY STREET**

Paved street, eight room, frame, slate roof dwelling, finished in oak just been newly papered and painted, lot 50x150 feet, with 20 ft. alley in the rear. The lot is worth \$4,000, and the property is insured for \$4,000. Will sell for a few days for

**\$6,200**

Lot is level, cement sidewalk in front of the property.

**ON DUNCAN STREET**

That is just now being paved, and which street runs from Carr avenue to Buckhannon avenue. There are three as fine residences on this street as you will find anywhere around Clarksburg. There are two lots unsold on this street 40x160 feet, extending back to a 20 ft. alley, at the low price of

**\$2,800 EACH**

There is one lot on the other side of the street from the lots mentioned above 40x122.3 feet on one side; 162.7 feet on the other side; and 44.57 feet in the rear; also 15 foot alley in the rear of above mentioned lot for

**\$2,200**

To the right purchaser these lots can be purchased for one-fourth down, balance in one, two and three years. You will find upon investigation that you can not purchase anything near like these lots considering the neighborhood at the price.

**The Willison & Dennison Co.**

REAL ESTATE BROKER  
General Insurance Agent  
Goff Bldg., Clarksburg

## AT THIS BANK

you are assured of prompt, courteous attention at all times—and you are at liberty to consult with our officers in regard to financial matters. Accounts subject to check, large or small are solicited.

**The West Virginia Bank**

WALDO CORNER, CLARKSBURG  
GEORGE L. DUNCAN, President.  
R. A. FARLAND, Cashier  
L. D. GRIFFIN, Asst. Cashier

## UNION DENTISTS

320 W. PIKE STREET

Next Door to Pike News Co.

BOTH PHONES

Abnormal teeth or the absence of part of the teeth may cause NERVOUSNESS, HEADACHES, and a broken down system as well as bad facial appearance.



Teeth extracted without pain, 25c.  
Fillings, silver, 50c and up. Crown and bridge work, \$4.00 and \$5.00 per tooth.

A full set of teeth, \$8.00 and a 10-year written guarantee.

**MODERN DENTISTRY AT MODERATE PRICES  
IS OUR AXIOM.**

## THE EASIEST WAY

to be sure of clothes value is to come here first. It's the best way, too. Woollens and tailoring are right in every detail—styles portray refinement and good form in every line.

The Latch String is Always Out.  
SUITS OR OVERCOATS \$18.00 AND UP

**BLOCH TAILORING CO.**

HOUSE OF TAILORED VALUES  
MASONIC BLDG. CLARKSBURG, W. VA.

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Traveling Sets in Persian Ivory and Silver

Jewel Cases  
Brushes in Sets  
Manicure Sets

Stationary in Christmas Boxes  
Handkerchiefs in Endless Variety  
Small Framed Pictures

We have the finest if not the only complete line of German Dolls in the city. A better selection of Christmas Notions is not to be found anywhere. Lots of things for the kiddies. Bring them along with you.

**THE BON TON STORE**

**NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE  
OF OIL AND GAS LEASES, WITH  
PARTIALLY DRAINED WELL**

By virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned special commissioner by a decree of the Circuit Court of Harrison County, West Virginia, made and entered on the 22nd day of October, 1914, in the cause in chancery therein pending, wherein Frank M. Clouson and others are plaintiffs and Joseph R. Elless and others are defendants, said special commissioner will, on Monday,

**DECEMBER 28, 1914,**  
at 1:30 o'clock P. M., at the front door of the court house of said County, in the City of Clarksburg, sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, all and singular the following property:

(a). That certain leasehold estate or term of years created by an oil and gas lease dated the 25th day of December, 1911, whereby U. Grant Griffin and Alice Griffin, his wife, granted, demised, leased and let to Sheridan B. Griffin, his successors and assigns, for the sole and only purpose of operating for oil and gas and of laying pipes and building tanks, stations and structures thereon to take care of said products, all that certain tract of land situated in Eagle District, in said County, on the south by lands of Bell Brook, and on the west by the lands of G. H. Harbert and James A. Griffin, containing 46 acres, more or less, reserving, however, therefrom 100 feet around the dwelling, on which no well should be drilled by either party, except by mutual consent, said lease to remain in force for the term of ten years from the date thereof and as long thereafter as oil and gas, or either of them, is produced from said land by said lessee, his successors or assigns, yielding and paying to said lessors certain rent and royalties therein specified, and which lease is of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of said County in Deed Book No. 202, page 373.

(b). Also that certain well for oil and gas purposes drilled on or partly drilled in and upon said land, together with all of the casing in and of said well, including the 1122 feet of 5 1/2 inch casing in said well.

said Sheridan B. Griffin, and he will have the right to remove said rig or derrick from said land at the expiration of the period aforesaid, provided, however, that he shall give notice in writing at least thirty days before he shall commence the work or said removal of his purpose so to do to the person or persons who shall be at such time the owner or owners of said well.

**TERMS OF SALE:** Cash in hand on the day of sale.  
Given under my hand this 27th day of November, 1914.  
**GEORGE M. HOFFMEIER,**  
Special Commissioner,  
Circuit Court of Harrison County, West Virginia, do hereby certify that George M. Hoffmeier, the special commissioner above named, has given bond, with good security in the penalty and with the conditions required by the above mentioned decree, and required by law.

Given under my hand this 27th day of November, 1914.  
**J. W. COFFMAN,** Clerk,  
Circuit Court of Harrison County, West Virginia.

**Prepare For  
Winter**

**"HAVE YOUR PLUMBING  
SPENCERIZED"**

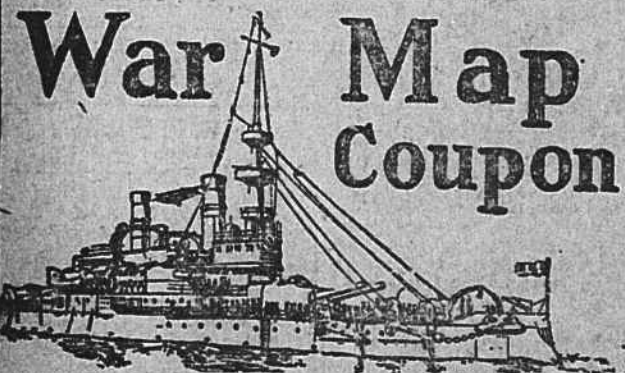
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SQUARE DEAL PLUMBING  
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Bargains in unredeemed Watches, Clock, Jewelry and Musical Instruments.

We make a specialty of Repairing Watches and Clocks with a Two-Year Guarantee.

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